

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32 are pending herein. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended hereby to correct minor matters of form. Claims 5, 7, 21 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

1. Applicant appreciates the Examiner indicating that claims 5, 7-16, 21 and 23-32 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 5, 7, 21 and 23 have been so rewritten. In addition to these claims, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance for the reasons explained below.

2. The objection to claims 1-32 is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claims 1 and 17 submitted above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. The rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 17-20 and 22 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,642,654 is noted, but obviated by the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

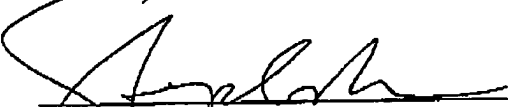
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

August 31, 2004

Date


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